

Application No.: 10/621,459
Old Attorney's Docket No. 040072-246
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REMARKS

Claims 2-10, 12-20, and 22-30 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 11 and 21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 5-8, 10, 12, 15-18, 20, 22, 25-28, and 30 have been amended without introduction of new matter. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The indication that claims 10, 20, and 30 define allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Each of these claims has now been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 10, 20, and 30 are believed to be in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 25, 26, 28, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kamiya (US-5,850,049). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 11, and 21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

The claims which formerly depended from one of claims 1, 11, and 21 (i.e., claims 5, 6, 8, 15, 16, 18, 25, 26, and 28) have now been amended so that each depends from a respective one of the allowable independent claims 10, 20, and 30. Consequently, claims 5, 6, 8, 15, 16, 18, 25, 26, and 28, as well as claims 9 (which depends from claim 8), 19 (which depends from claim 18), and 29 (which depends from claim 28) are allowable at least because of their dependence from an allowable claim.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 15, 16, 18, 19, 25, 26, 28, and 29 under Section 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 2-4, 7, 12-14, 17, 22-24, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kamiya in view of Ashour et al. (US-5,808,221). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claims which formerly depended from one of claims 1, 11, and 21 (i.e., claims 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, and 27) have now been amended so that each depends from a respective one of the allowable independent claims 10, 20, and 30. Consequently, claims 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, and 27, as well as claims 3-4 (which depend from claim 2), 13-14 (which depend from claim 12), and 23-24 (which depend from claim 22) are allowable at least because of their dependence from an allowable claim.

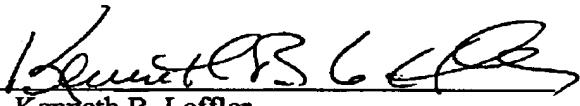
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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2-4, 7, 12-14, 17, 22-24, and 27 under Section 103(a) be withdrawn.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of same is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Potomac Patent Group PLLC

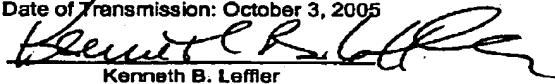
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